

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, under “Description of the Related Art” with the following amended paragraph:

Alternative energy ~~of~~ from fossil fuel and environmental conservation are important agenda in the world, and are discussed worldwide. ~~In the circumstances, the~~ [[t]] Thermoelectric converting technologies are attractive alternative energy sources. ~~The~~ [[t]] Thermoelectric conversion does not produce any anti-environmental gas such as carbon dioxide gas and nitrooxides. Waste heat is reused as electric energy through the thermoelectric conversion, and ~~the refrigerants against~~ adverse to the environment such as freon ~~is~~ are not required for refrigerators. Thus, ~~the~~ thermoelectric conversion is free from ~~the~~ environmental destruction, and ~~the~~ thermoelectric conversion ~~is promising~~ technologies are promising.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5, which starts with “The inventors further discovered” with the following amended paragraph:

The inventors further discovered that the following compounds exhibited good thermoelectric properties. The compounds ~~was~~ were expressed by the general formulae, in which part of or all of the Group 1 element or elements in the general formula (2) was replaced with at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of Group 2 elements, i.e., magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca), strontium (Sr) and barium (Ba), 3d-transition metals from titanium (Ti) to zinc (Zn), 4d-transition metals from zirconium (Zr) to cadmium (Cd), 5d-transition metals from hafnium (Hf) to gold (Au), rare-earth elements containing scandium (Sc) and yttrium (Y), boron (B), aluminum (Al), gallium (Ga), indium (In), thallium (Tl), tin (Sn), lead (Pb), antimony (Sb) and bismuth (Bi).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 16, which starts with “The compounds was further” with the following amended paragraph:

The compounds ~~was~~ were further expressed by the general formulae, in which part of or all of titanium (Ti) is replaced with at least one element selected from the group consisting of vanadium (V), chromium (Cr), zirconium (Zr), niobium (Nb), molybdenum (Mo), hafnium (Hf), tantalum (Ta), tungsten (W), iridium (Ir) and tin (Sn).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21, which starts with “The compound was further” with the following amended paragraph:

The compounds ~~was~~ were further expressed by the general formulae, in which part of or all of sulfur (S) was replaced with at least one element selected from the group consisting of selenium (Se) and tellurium (Te).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12, which starts with “The compounds with the” with the following amended paragraph:

The compounds with the CdI_2 analogous layer structure which were expressed by the general formulae of $\text{A}_x\text{TiS}_{2-y}$ where $0 \leq x \leq 2$ and $0 \leq y < 1$ have layers of hexagonal dense packing of sulfur ions, and Ti atoms occupy octahedral sites in every other sulfur layer. In other words, edge-sharing TiS_6 octahedra form infinite layers, and these layers are stacked. The TiS_6 layers are bonded to each other by the weak van der Waals force, and various kinds of ions and molecules are intercalated into the van der Waals gap between the TiS_6 layers.